



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 20 2007

Ms. Carol Johnston
Director Special Projects
Ironbound Community Corporation
179 Van Buren Street
Newark, New Jersey 07105

Dear Ms. Johnston:

Thank you for your comments on the draft Focused Feasibility Study (FFS) [June 2007] for the Passaic River Source Control Early Action. In general, the comments we received from the Remedial Options Work Group were thoughtful and reflected the need to move forward on cleaning up this valuable resource that is the Passaic River.

We are working on revising the FFS to address the comments received. Because of the number of comments that require a substantial technical response, I am proposing to revise the schedule for the Source Control Early Action: Proposed Plan for public comment by June 2008, with a 60-day public comment period ending in August 2008. This schedule will allow us time to incorporate or respond to substantive comments, including performing additional analyses. My intent is to select a remedy in Autumn 2008.

The FFS is an important document, because it establishes the basis for taking an Early Action. I recognize the amount of time that you spent pointing out areas where the document can be strengthened. My proposed new schedule is an acknowledgement that we must also spend considerable thought incorporating your comments into the document, so that the Early Action can move into the Proposed Plan stage as a stronger remedy.

If you have any questions, please call George Pavlou, Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division, at 212-637-4390.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Alan Steinberg", is positioned above the printed name.

Alan Steinberg
Regional Administrator